The rate of shrinking of 30.2 km. long Gangotri Glacier in the last three decades has been found to be more than the rate during the earlier decades. Range of recession for this period is about 18-25 meter/year. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) is studying the melting of Himalayan Glaciers in the Garhwal Himalaya, namely, Dokriani and Chorabari glaciers. The Dokriani and Chorabari glacier have been receding at an average rate of 17.5 m/year between 1991 and 2005, and 10m/year between 2003 and 2006 respectively.

The major part of the river discharge is contributed by snowfall and precipitation which is likely to change with global warming. The continuous retreat of glaciers may lead to marginal shortage of water in the Himalayan Rivers.

(d) In additional to the above, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) envisages launching a Mission for sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system to evolve management measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan glaciers and mountain eco-system. The Mission is expected to seek to understand, whether and the extent to which, the Himalayan glaciers are in recession and how the problem could be addressed.

Allegation of Indian Interference in Baluchistan

†3538. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has made an allegation of Indian interference in Baluchistan region;

(b) whether this topic was raised during the meeting held at the time of Prime Minister's last foreign visit;

(c) if so, whether this was denied at that time; and

(d) the reaction of the Government if this allegation was levelled later on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Yes

(d) The allegations are unfounded. We have no interest in destablizing Pakistan and our conduct is an open book.

Relationship with China

3539. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a spat of recent editorials has blamed India for ratcheting up tension on the Indo-China border at Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that IAF deployed Sukhoi fighter in Tezpur and there is a growing feeling of tensions of war in the mind of local people of the area;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether there is any growing strains in the relationship with neighbouring China; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Yes.

(b) Deployment of a defence aircraft is undertaken keeping in view the operational requirement of the Services from time to time. This is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) India and China have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. There are regular political contacts between the leaders of the two countries. The two countries have established a dialogue architecture at all level to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Bilateral trade and economic relations have shown perceptible growth. The two sides have held two joint military training exercises. The functional cooperation between India and China is expanding in a number of areas. Both sides have agreed that they are committed to resolving outstanding differences, including on the boundary question, through peaceful negotiations, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations.

Indians in UN Peace Keeping Mission

3540. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians in UN Peace Keeping mission have suffered the largest number of casualties;

(b) if so, the details thereof as compared to personnel from developed countries; and

(c) the number out of them that have been awarded with bravery award by Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. Since the inception of UN peace keeping in 1948, 131 Indians have lost their lives, as on 30 June, 2009. During the same period, among the developed countries, the highest fatalities were from : Canada (114), UK (99) and France (98).

(c) One; Capt. Gurbachan Singh Salaria (1st Gorkha Rifles), was awarded the Param Vir Chakra (PVC) for having made the supreme sacrifice in Congo on 05 December, 1961.

Chinese advice regarding Indian Ocean

3541. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: